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Health and Human
Services

All Texas Access

**Ensuring All Texans Have Access
to Care at the Right Time and
the Right Place**



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Senate Bill 633

S.B. 633, passed in the 86th Texas Legislative Session, recognizes that rural local mental health authorities and their local partners are best qualified to collaboratively identify the best approach to meet the mental health needs of rural counties.





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Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)

LMHAs are the providers of last resort for mental health services. They often serve people without insurance or people who have Medicaid and cannot find a provider. In rural areas they are frequently the only provider of mental health services.

There are 39 LMHAs in Texas, varying in size from serving only one county in urban areas to up to 23 counties in rural areas.

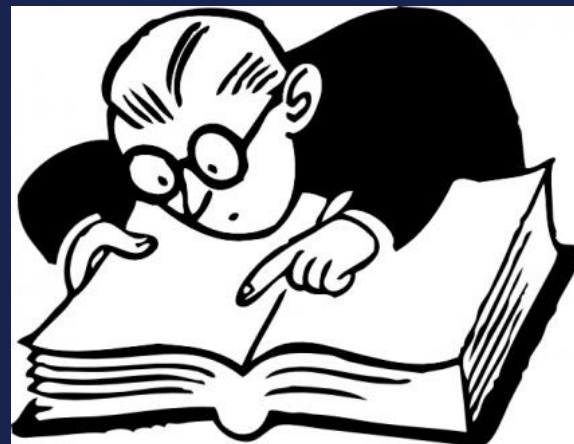


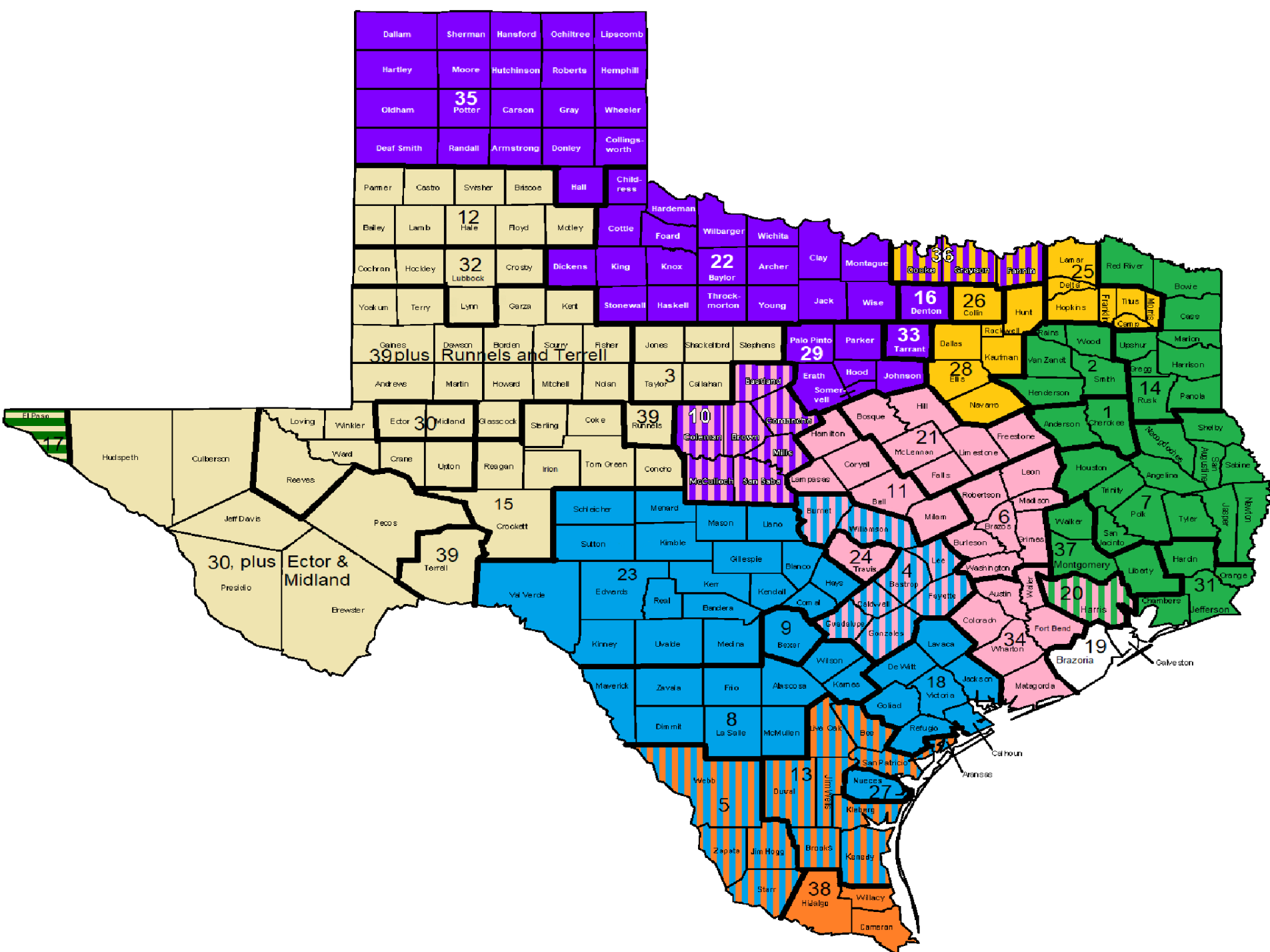
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Definition of Rural

S.B. 633 directs HHSC to identify rural LMHAs as those who serve a county with a population of 250,000 or less.

Thirty of the 39 LMHAs serve at least one rural county.







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Four Primary Areas

S.B. 633 directs the Regional Groups to develop plans to reduce:

1. Cost to local governments of providing services to persons experiencing a mental health crisis;
2. Transportation of persons served by an LMHA to mental health facilities;
3. Incarceration of persons with mental illness in county jails; and
4. Number of hospital emergency room visits by persons with mental illness.



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Planning Process

The Regional Groups will determine a method of increasing the capacity of Regional Group LMHAs to provide access to needed services.

Develop
Regional Group
Plans.

Evaluate cost
offsets of
implementing
each Regional
Group Plan.

Document
available state
funds, grants, or
other funds that
could be used to
implement each
plan.

Publish report
summarizing all
Regional Group
Plans and state
of Texas rural
mental health
care.



Implementation

- Each Regional Group will partner with HHSC to develop the plan for their area.
- HHSC will compile and evaluate the plans in a report.
- Regional Groups are NOT required to implement a plan without identified funding.
- Regional Groups are only for the purposes of implementing S.B. 633. Each LMHA retains its autonomy and authority.



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Next Steps

- HHSC identified the LMHAs and created the Regional Groups.
- Regional groups will meet to discuss the elements of the required plan.
- HHSC will assist with meeting planning and will attend each regional meeting.
- Meetings of each Regional Group will occur in that region.



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Expectations for LMHAs

- Identify local stakeholders.
- Identify regional meeting venues.
- Participate in regional group meetings as subject matter experts for the region.
- Provide data to HHSC that will inform final report.



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Expectations for Community Partners

- Participate in Regional Group meetings as subject matter experts for the region.
- Provide feedback on plans.





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Expectations for HHSC

- Provide logistical support, including meeting facilitation and note taking.
- Translate meeting content into regional plans and solicit Regional Group feedback and approval.
- Evaluate plans.
- Publish plans on HHSC website.



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Anticipated Timeline

Activity	Time Period
Initial meetings with LMHAs in each regional group	September/October 2019
LMHAs identify local stakeholders & meeting venues	September/October 2019
Initial Regional Group meetings	October/November 2019
Ongoing Regional Group meetings, as needed	November 2019 to March 2020
Regional Plans reviewed and finalized	April 2020 to June 2020
Evaluation Report Drafted	July 2020
Evaluation Report reviewed and finalized	August 2020 to November 2020



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Thank You

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